

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 INR-05 PRS-01 L-02 SP-01 H-01 RSC-01

(ISO) W

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P 291016Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8733

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 14057

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: HILAO FAMILY APPEAL TO SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE

1. AN OLDER SISTER OF LILIOSA HILAO, GIRL WHO KILLED
HERSELF WITH MURIATIC POISON IN 1973, HAS WRITTEN DE-
TAILED, WELL ORDERED LETTER TO SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON SUBSEQUENT ABUSE AND DETENTION OF ALMOST
ALL OF LILIOSA'S YOUNGER SIBLINGS AND FAMILY'S INABILITY
TO GET GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE. LETTER ENDS "THESE
ARE THE FACTS. I LEAVE IT TO YOU TO DETERMINE WHAT
ACTION TO TAKE ON A GOVERNMENT THAT DOES THESE THINGS OR
PERMITS THEM TO HAPPEN". EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS SENATOR
DIOKNO ASSISTED IN PREPARATION OF LETTER WHICH TOGETHER
WITH ANNEXES WAS REPORTEDLY CARRIED TO U.S. BY PRIEST
DEPARTING HERE NOVEMBER 20. WE ARE SENDING LETTER BY
POUCH AND ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN ANNEXES.

2. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE VALIDITY OF ALLEGATIONS.
IN VIEW OF LONG TIME THAT HAS ELAPSED, EXTENSIVE PUBLI-
CITY GIVEN TO ARCE/ALVAREZ CASES, AND VERY STRONG STATE-
MENTS BY GENERAL RAMOS NOVEMBER 27 WARNING PC NOT TO
ABUSE ITS POWER, WE EXPECT THAT FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS
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MATTER WILL BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN.

3. EXAMPLES OF ABUSES PROVIDED IN ARCE AND ALVAREZ CASES, AND FURTHER EXPOUNDED IN HILAO LETTER, APPEAR TO BE PART OF GRADUAL INCREASE IN INSTANCES OF BRUTALITY IN LUZON AND VISA AS THAT WE HAVE NOTED IN PAST FEW MONTHS. SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, HOWEVER, THESE INSTANCES REPRESENT FOR THE MOST PART BREAKDOWN OF DISCIPLINE AT LOCAL LEVELS PRIMARILY IN RANKS OF NOTORIOUSLY INDISCIPLINED PC. THEY MAY ALSO DRAW SOME INSPIRATION FROM VICIOUS FIGHTING OCCURRING IN MINDANAO. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THEY ARE PART OF GOVERNMENT POLICY AND AFTER EXPERIENCE WITH OSMENA/ LOPEZ (SEE SEPTTEL) WE WOULD EXPECT GOVERNMENT WILL BECOME HIGHLY SENSITIZED TO SUCH IRREGULARITIES AND MAKE SERIOUS EFFORT TO END THEM TO EXTENT POSSIBLE IN COUNTRY FIGHTING "WAR" ON TWO FRONTS.
SULLIVAN

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